

Clover Lake

Clover Lake, 55° 19' 42" N lat. 132° 14' 53" W long., is located on the east side of Prince of Wales Island, approximately 8 km (5 miles) west of the head of Clover Bay (Figure 16). Clover Lake is approximately 56 km (35 miles) west of Ketchikan. Clover Lake is the uppermost lake in a series of five lakes on Clover Creek. Clover Lake is 2 km (1.25 miles) long by 0.8 km (0.5 mile) wide. Its maximum depth has been reported to be in excess of 30.5 meters (100 feet). Clover Lake is considered a sub-alpine lake, as it lies at an elevation of 423 meters (1,388 feet) above sea level (Figure 17).

Access to Clover Lake is limited to periods of weather when the cloud level is above 1,500 feet. Access is best by either fixed wing aircraft or helicopter. Overland trails do not exist at present and only the most determined hikers will attempt to reach Clover Lake. The sub-alpine setting of Clover Lake makes it attractive to visit. The terrain around the lake is moderate in topography (Figure 18). The lake shore varies from low banks to areas of moderate cliffs. Fishing from shore would be possible around most of the lake. The lake is surrounded by sub-alpine rain forest of pine, cedar, hemlock, and spruce. Several small muskegs come down to the lake shore.

At present, there are no developed cabins or shelters on Clover Lake. There are numerous areas that would make excellent camp sites.

Clover Lake was visited on June 12 and 13, 1984. Two floating gillnets (Figure 19) were set. One net was fished on the northwest side across from the outlet and the other was fished on a point on the southeast side about midway between the inlet and outlet. The nets were fished for 21 hours each before being pulled on June 13. Only three rainbow trout were captured. These three rainbow trout were 112, 114, and 338 mm (4.4 to 13.3 inches) in length (Table 13). As only three fish were captured, a meaningful average size can not be established. The two smaller rainbow were found to be immature, while the large fish was mature (Table 14).

Clover Lake was planted with 18,000 eyed rainbow trout eggs in July of 1956. The existing population is the result of that plant. Clover Lake does not have any regular inlets. There are several large springs along the north shore and there are intermittent streams from the high country that run during rain storms. The first 91 meters (100 yards) downstream from the outlet of Clover Lake are available fish habitat and contain some spawning areas. Below this area, the stream becomes very steep with numerous waterfalls.

To be of much value to the average fisherman, it may be necessary to increase the rainbow population in Clover Lake. This lake is very clear and may be quite unproductive as far as fish food goes, however, it is a scenic spot and offers access to alpine areas for deer hunting.